

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-10 SAJ-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 ACDA-10

PM-03 NSC-05 SS-15 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SAM-01

INT-05 FEAE-00 OES-05 EB-07 L-03 OMB-01 SAB-01 IO-10

AID-05 ERDA-07 ERDE-00 SR-02 ORM-01 /127 W

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O R 271315Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0537

USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY -- MAY 25-27

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

USINFO FOR IOP/M

USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS

1. BILATERAL

(A) PRAVDA INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY REVIEW ON MAY 25 AGAIN EMPHASIZES THEME THAT CESSATION OF CONFLICT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WILL HAVE POSITIVE EFFECT ON U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS. THE SAME COMMENTARY SAYS THAT THE VIENNA MEETING WAS THE FIRST HIGH-LEVEL U.S.-SOVIET CONTACT SINCE THE END OF THE CONFLICT IN VIETNAM AND MAKES POINT THAT IT WAS "CONSTRUCTIVE AND USEFUL". IT POINTS OUT "OPTIMISTIC REACTION" OF WESTERN PRESS TO THE MEETING. COMMENTARY FURTHER EMPHASIZES THAT "SOVIET UNION IS DOING ALL THAT DEPENDS ON IT TO ACHIEVE THE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS WITH THE U.S." AND SAYS THAT THE VISIT "THIS YEAR" OF BREZHNEV TO U.S. WILL PLAY VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THESE RELATIONS.

(B) PRAVDA MAY 25 CARRIES EXCERPTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN JOURNALISTS. AMONG PORTIONS INCLUDED WERE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT OF CONCERN ON PORTUGAL (THOUGH NOT IN ITS ENTIRETY); AND SELECTED STATEMENTS RELATING TO CONTINUING U.S. INTENT TO ADHERE TO DETENTE POLICY. HIS ANSWER TO QUERY ON SCHLESINGER'S STATEMENT ON USE OF FORCE IN MIDDLE EAST IN CASE OF OIL EMBARGO THAT THE U.S. "IS ATTEMPTING TO ACHIEVE COOPERATION, NOT CONFRONTATION, IN THE MIDDLE EAST" IS PLAYED IN MANNER TO PORTRAY HIM FAVORABLY.

(C) PRAVDA MAY 26 CARRIES EXCERPTS FROM THE SECRETARY'S UNCLASSIFIED

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INTERVIEW (MAY 25). INCLUDED WAS HIS OBSERVATION THAT U.S. AND USSR NOW UNDERTAKING INITIATIVES IN THREE MAIN AREAS: SALT, MBFR, AND CSCE. PRAVDA ALSO CARRIES HIS REMARKS ON PRESENT SALT NEGOTIATIONS, INCLUDING HIS OBSERVATION THAT CHANCES FOR CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENT THIS YEAR ARE GOOD.

2. NATO. PRAVDA WEEKLY INTERNATIONAL REVIEW USES

SCHLESINGER PRESENCE IN BRUSSELS TO AGAIN ATTACK HIS STATEMENT ON POSSIBLE USE OF FORCE IN MIDDLE EAST IF ARAB STATES IMPSE OIL EMBARGO. COMMENTARY MOVES TO DISCUSSION OF PRESENT NATO MEETINGS, WHICH IT CHARACTERIZES AS DEMONSTRATING THE DEEP DIFFERENCES OF OPINION AND CONTRADICTIONS WITHIN NATO. COMMENTARY NOTES THAT PRESIDENT FORD WILL PARTICIPATE IN NATO USMMIT AND SAYS THAT CONFLICTS IN U.S.-WESTERN EUROPEAN RELATIONS WILL BE ONE OF MAIN TOPICS DISCUSSED. PRAVDA, IN REPORT ON KISSINGER INTERVIEW NOTED IN PARA ONE ABOVE, HAS THE SECRETARY SAYING IN CONNECTION WITH NATO MEETINGS, THAT AFTER EVENTS IN INDOCHINA CERTAIN QUESTIONS HAVE OBVIOUSLY ARISEN ON HOW THE U.S. WILL REACTTO ITS SETBACKS AND HOW THIS WILL AFFECT RELATIONS WITHIN NATO. PRAVDA REPORTS THAT SECRETARY SAID FURTHER THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL USE NATO SUMMIT TO DISCUSS RELATIONS WITH NATIONS OF EASTERN EUROPE AND THE SOVIET UNION.

3. PORTUGAL. EVENTS IN PORTUGAL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE STEADY IF UNSPECTACULAR COVERAGE IN ALL SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS. MAIN THRUST OF COVERAGE AT PRESENT IS REPLAY OF PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST CRITICISM OF SOCIALIST PARTY. LENGTHY REPORT FROM PRAVDA CORRESPONDENT IN LISBON ON MAY 25 INCLUDES STATEMENT THAT SOCIALIST PARTY LEADERSHIP IS NOT FULFILLING OBLIGATIONS WHICH IT TOOK BEFORE THE ELECTIONS AND THAT SOCIALIST PARTY ACTIVITIES ARE COINCIDING WITH THOSE "COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY PROVOCATEURS." PRAVDA (MAY 27) REPORTS THAT AFM ASSEMBLY NOW MEETING TO EXAMINE QUESTION OF "STRENGTHENING UNION OF PEOPLE AND THE AFM" THROUGH ESTABLISHMENT OF "DIRECT CONTACT" BETWEEN AFM AND MASS ORGANIZATIONS.

4. BERLIN. IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY EVENING OF MAY 24 IS FIRST REPORT IN SOVIET PRESS THAT GENSCHER VISIT TO UNCLASSIFIED

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BERLIN HAD BEEN MADE TO ACCOMPANY (SOPROVOZH DAT) THE SECRETARY. COMMENTARY REPLAYS STANDARD SOVIET LINE THAT PROVISION IN QP THAT WSB NOT CONSTITUENT PART OF FRG IS "PIVOTAL" AND DETERMINES ALL FRG RELATIONS WITH THAT CITY. COMMENTARY DENIES WITH SOME HEAT THAT THE QP APPLIES TO "ALL BERLIN" (QUOTES IN ORIGINAL).

5. JAPAN - CHINA. PRAVDA'S WEEKLY REVIEW (MAY 25) EXTENDS THE THREATENING LANGUAGE OF GROMYKO'S MAY 14 SPEECH ON THE PROSPECTIVE JAPAN-CHINA TREATY. PRAVDA SAYS THAT PEKING'S GOAL "DIRECTLY CONTRADICT THE REAL SECURITY INTERESTS OF JAPAN," WHICH CAN BEST BE MET BY GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL NEIGHBORS, INCLUDING THE SOVIET UNION. PRAVDA (MAY 27) CITES AN EAST GERMAN NEWSPAPER THAT THE SNIO-JAPANESE TREATY WILL SERVE PEKING'S HEGE-

MONISTIC AMBITIONS IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA.

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0538

USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW
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CINCPAC FOR POLAD
USINFO FOR IOP/M
USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS

6. MIDDLE EAST.

(A) U.S. ROLE. TASS ACCOUNT OF THE SECRETARY'S MAY 25 NEWS CONFERENCE (PRAVDA MAY 26) REPORTS HE TOLD NEWSMEN THAT THERE IS A "HIGH PROBABILITY" THAT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WILL BE RECONVENED AND THAT THE U.S. AND USSR ARE COOPERATING TO ASSURE THAT THE MEPC WILL ACHIEVE RESULTS. TASS REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S MAY 24 INTERVIEW WITH JOURNALISTS (PRAVDA MAY 25) SAYS HE STATED THAT THE U.S. VOTED FOR UNSC RESOLUTIONS WHICH CALL ON ISRAEL TO LIBERATE OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS AND THAT THE U.S. BELIEVES ANY POLICY MUST BE BASED ON THE FRAMEWORK PROVIDED BY THESE RESOLUTIONS. ACCORDING TO TASS, THE PRESIDENT ALSO EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT "THE USSR IS PLAYING A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN THE ME."

(B) EGYPT - USSR. PRAVDA MAY 27 HAS AN UNUSUAL, SHARP ATTACK ON AL AHRAM FOR ITS STORY ALLEGING THAT KOSYGIN AGREED IN TRIPOLI TO A MASSIVE ARMS DEAL IN RETURN FOR SOVIET BASES IN LIBYA. THE UNSIGNED ATTACK EXPRESSES SHOCK THAT THE ARAB PRESS WOULD ENGAGE IN SUCH PROPAGANDA AND CLAIMS THE USSR HAS ALWAYS OPPOSED THE PRESENCE OF MILITARY BASES ON FOREIGN SOIL. A SEPARATE ARTICLE BY GLUKOV RHAPSODIZES ABOUT THE ELECTRIFICATION OF NILE VILLAGES AS SIGNS OF THE SUCCESS OF THE ASWAN DAM.

(C) ISRAEL - ARAB. AN IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY BY K. KAPITONOV (MAY 26) CHARGES THAT ISRAEL'S RECENT ARREST OF 200 ARAB MEMBERS OF THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL FRONT AND THE EXPULSION OF PALESTINIANS FROM THEIR HOMES ON THE WEST BANK AND IN GAZA TO CLEAR SITES FOR FURTHER ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IS PART OF A "TACTIC" TO PREPARE THE OCCUPIED

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LANDS FOR ANNEXATION. KAPITONOV GOES ON THAT THESE ACTIONS VIOLATE INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND REFLECT AN EFFORT BY ISRAEL TO BREAK THE WILL OF ARAB "PATRIOTS," WHICH HAS FAILED IN ITS OBJECTIVE TO STOP THE PALESTINIANS' STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION AND THEIR OWN "STATE."

(D) SYRIA - PLO. PRAVDA (MAY 26) BRIEFLY AND WITHOUT COMMENT ANNOUNCES THE BEGINNING OF PLO-SYRIAN TALKS IN DAMASCUS ABOUT FORMATION OF A JOINT POLITICAL-MILITARY COMMAND.

(E) VISITORS. CENTRAL PRESS ANNOUNCES ARRIVAL OVER THE WEEKEND OF IRAQ'S MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (PRAVDA MAY 25) AND LIBYA'S MINISTER OF PLANNING (PRAVDA MAY 27). ACCORDING TO PRAVDA THE IRAQI IS HEADING A DELEGATION FOR THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE SOVIET-IRAQI MIXED COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND THE LIBYAN WILL HOLD TALKS ON SOVIET-LIBYAN COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY.

(F) LEBANON. PRESS GIVES HEAVY COVERAGE TO THE "SERIOUS SITUATION" IN LEBANON. WEEKEND REPORTING CONTINUES TO FOCUS ON THE THEME THAT LEBANESE "REACTION" IS SEEKING TO UNDERMINE THE PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT AND LEBANESE NATIONAL UNITY BY PROVOCATIONS.

7. CYPRUS. PRAVDA (MAY 25) CARRIES A COMMUNIQUE ON THE MEETING OF CYPRIOT COMMUNIST PARTY (AKEL) SECRETARY GENERAL PAPAIOANNU WITH SUSLOV AND PONOMAREV. COMMUNIQUE STATES THAT THE CYPRIOT SIDE EXPLAINED ITS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A PELHHP US PROLDP ON #

THE BASIS OF UN RESOLUTIONS "WHICH CALL FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF TURKISH AND ALL OTHER FOREIGN FORCES FROM THE TERRITORY OF THE ISLAND." THE SOVIET SIDE, ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIQUE, EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR AKEL'S STRUGGLE FOR A QUICK NORMALIZATION OF THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS, FOR RETURN REFUGEES TO THEIR OWN HOMES, AND FOR A NEUTRAL AND DEMILITARIZED CYPRUS. THE SOVIETS ALSO ASSURED THE CYPRIOTS THAT THE CPSU IS "STRONGLY AGAINST" ANY FOREIGN UNCLASSIFIED

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MILITARY INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE CYPRIOT STATE. FOLLOWING UP THE VISIT, PRAVDA (MAY 27) REPLAYS FAVORABLE COMMENT FROM THE CYPRIOT COMMUNIST PRESS ABOUT SOVIET POSITIONS ON A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. STOESSEL

NOTE BY OC/T: SECTION 2 OF 2 MOSCOW 7222; #LAST PARA AS RECEIVED.

CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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